



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

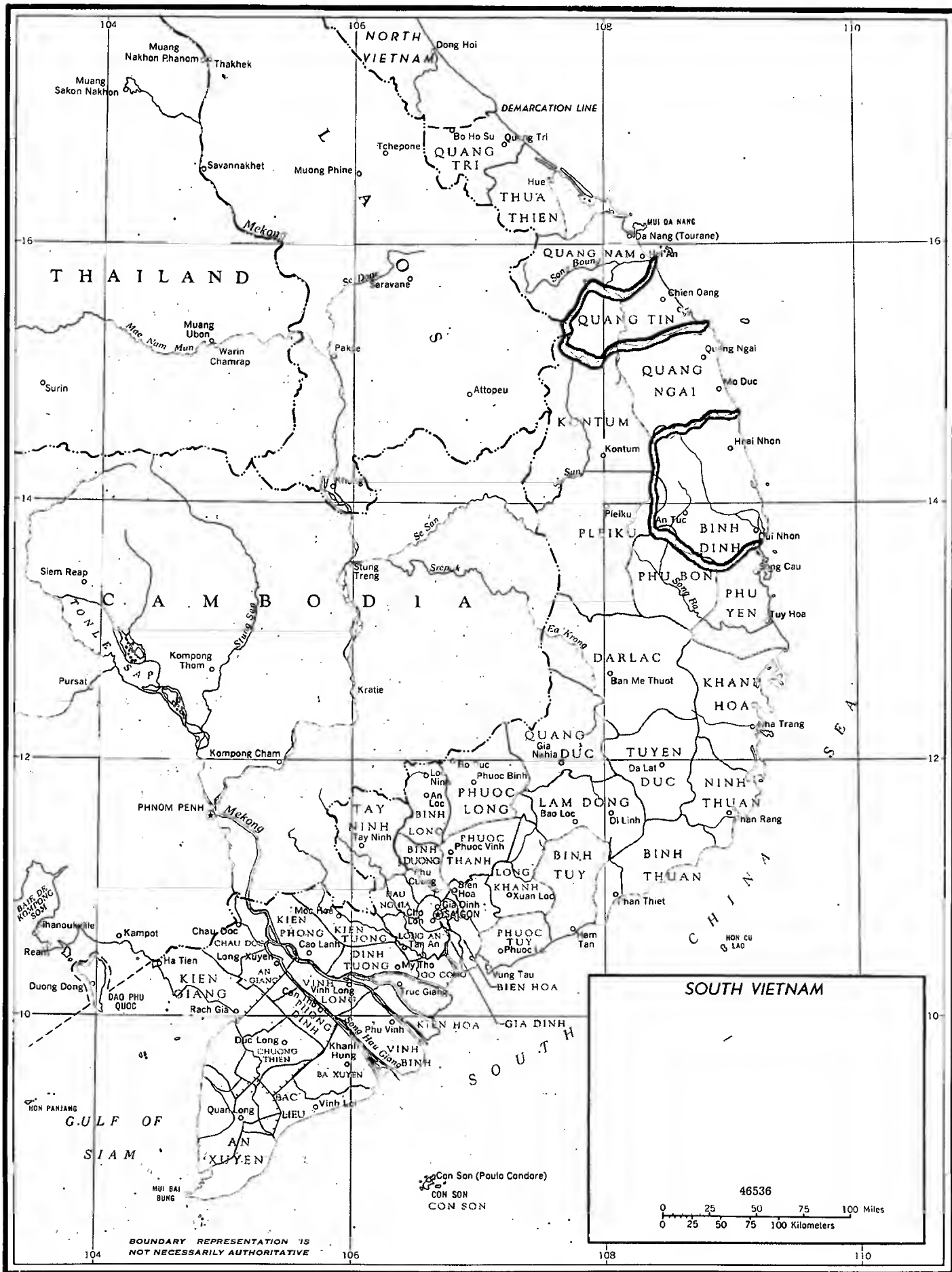
THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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21 APRIL 1965

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DAILY BRIEF
21 APRIL 1965

1. Vietnam

No significant changes have been reported since yesterday in the diplomatic and propaganda attitudes of the principal Communist parties in the situation.

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In a press editorial, Peiping today bitterly criticises President Johnson's 17 April statement, saying that it shows the US intends "the perpetual division of Vietnam." Like yesterday's National People's Congress resolution, today's piece sounds warlike, but does not in fact broaden Peiping's public commitment. It pledges the Chinese people and "the people of the world" to support "the Vietnamese people" for as long as they have to fight.

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U Thant is still trying to find some way to assist in working out a settlement. He is sending an assistant to talk to Sihanouk about opening up a channel to the Viet Cong leadership. He also feels that Ben Bella would be useful in this.

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In South Vietnam, heavy fighting continues in Quang Tin Province where US and South Vietnamese aircraft provided air support for the third consecutive day. Unofficial estimates place enemy dead as high as 300. The large-scale helicopter operation in progress in Binh Dinh Province has so far killed 42 Viet Cong and captured 11.

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2. East Africa

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Arms from the USSR, the bloc, and Communist China have been finding their way to the area for more than a year now. Most of the arms are for existing governments in the region, but some of them are being used to foment trouble in the Congo and southern Africa, thus adding to an already shaky situation. [REDACTED]

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3. India

Occasional firing continues in the disputed Kutch area bordering Pakistan. The Pakistanis are said to be moving up some armor, and the Indians are shifting paratroops closer to the scene. Mainly, however, this is still a war of words and nerves, conducted on both sides with one eye fixed on the UN.

4. Iraq

There are signs that a showdown is approaching between the pro- and anti-Nasirists in the government. [REDACTED]

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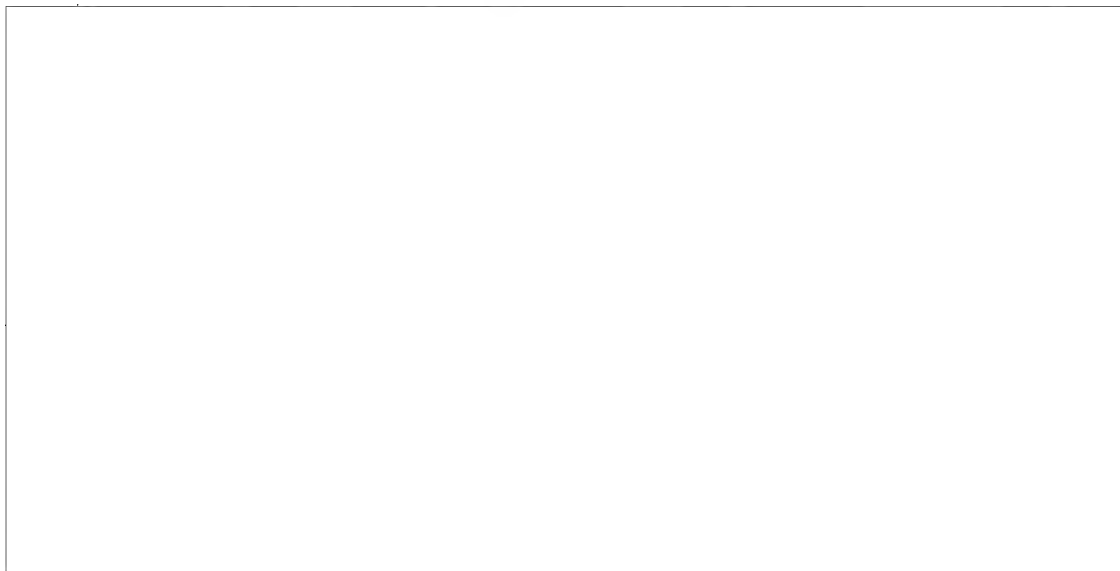
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[REDACTED] several Nasir men, perhaps sensing the drift of things, have already handed in their resignations. Regardless of which side wins in the end, President Aref is likely to find himself reduced to a figurehead, if not out of a job.

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